

For Immediate Release

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*Washington, D.C.* – Today, Congressman Sires joined his colleagues in the House of Representatives in support of our nation's veterans by voting for H.R. 5822, the fiscal year 2011 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which passed the House by a vote of 411 to 6.

"This bill provides critical investments that provide our veterans, our troops, and our military families with the care they deserve," said Congressman Sires. This bill supports the people that we all depend on to keep the country safe, and I am pleased its passage was a bipartisan effort."

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill provides funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including mandatory VA programs, and resources for military construction and family housing. The bill also includes advance appropriations for VA medical accounts. The investments in H.R. 5822 help ensure that our veterans receive uninterrupted health benefits and allow disabled veterans to receive new family caregiver benefits. This legislation will give the VA the resources it needs to reduce claims backlogs and process the newly eligible claims regarding exposure to Agent Orange. H.R. 5822 also includes funding for veterans housing programs, and it accelerates environmental cleanup projects at closed military based.

"Today's action in the House represents a critical investment in the men and women who have sacrificed greatly for our nation. This bill provides needed medical support and homelessness assistance, while improving oversight and transparency to best manage tax payer dollars," said

Sires.

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